

Page 11, after the Table, replace "denotes comparative example." by – In each of Examples 2 and 4, the polymer has a T_p outside the preferred range of 40-50 °C, and gives poor results in HPIB at 25 °C. --

In the Claims

1. (Amended) A thickened oil composition comprising
 - (1) an oil, and
 - (2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which
 - (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;
 - (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,
 - (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
 - (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and
 - (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil, and
 - (d) has at least one of the following characteristics
 - (i) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which contains repeating units containing at least one group selected from hydroxyalkyl groups; alkoxyalkyl groups [oxygen-containing groups, e.g. a hydroxyl group]; nitrogen-containing groups; fluorine-containing groups; and silicon-containing groups [, e.g. silyl groups];
 - (ii) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of carboxylic groups, carboxylic groups in the form of salts, and sulfonic acid groups in the form of salts;

- (iii) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which contains carboxylic acid groups in an amount less than 0.075 meq/g;
- (iv) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which contains repeating units containing long chain alkyl groups containing at least 26 carbon atoms;
- (v) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of functional groups;
- (vi) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of ionizable groups;
- (vii) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is a block copolymer or a graft copolymer;
- (viii) it is a homopolymer;
- (ix) it is a main chain crystalline polymer; and
- (x) it is a homopolymer or copolymer of caprolactone;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

Please add the following new claims 5-17.

5. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which

- (i) contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical containing 10 to 50 carbon atoms or a linear perfluorinated polymethylene radical containing 6 to 50 carbon atoms, and
- (ii) is substantially free of carboxylic groups, carboxylic groups in the form of salts, and sulfonic acid groups in the form of salts.

6. A composition according to Claim 5, wherein the SCC polymer contains at least 5% by weight of second repeating units which contain at least one radical selected from oxygen-containing groups, nitrogen-containing groups, fluorine-containing groups, and silicon-containing groups.

7. A composition according to Claim 6, wherein the second repeating units are derived from one or more of an N,N-dialkylamino acrylate, an N,N dialkylamino methacrylate, N-vinyl pyrrolidinone, an hydroxyalkyl acrylate, an hydroxyalkyl methacrylate, an alkoxyalkyl acrylate and an alkoxyalkyl methacrylate.
8. A composition according to Claim 5, wherein T_p is 40-50 °C.
9. A composition according to Claim 5, wherein the SCC polymer is substantially free of ionizable groups.
10. A composition according to Claim 5 wherein the SCC polymer is substantially free of functional groups.
11. A thickened oil composition comprising
- (1) an oil, and
 - (3) dispersed in the oil, a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which
 - (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , of 20 to 80 °C, and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than 10 °C;
 - (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,
 - (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
 - (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and
 - (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,
 - (d) contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical containing 10 to 50 carbon atoms or a linear perfluorinated polymethylene radical containing 6 to 50 carbon atoms, and
 - (e) is substantially free of carboxylic groups, carboxylic groups in the form of salts, and sulfonic acid groups in the form of salts;
- the composition being at a temperature below T_p .